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ABSTRACT

The American Indian population is in a period of transition. It is young, growing, and becoming more urban. There were some improvements in income, housing, education, and health in the 1960-70 decade, but Indians remain the most disadvantaged of the minority ethnic groups in the United States. By most of the above measures, Indians, especially rural Indians, are not as well off as the U.S. population as a whole. But the Indian people are moving toward self-determination, or self-government, in programs to enhance their lives. Both excessive paternalism and termination of the trust relationships have become discredited as national policy regarding Indians. As the President's Message of 1970 states, "Federal termination errs in one direction, Federal paternalism errs in the other." It is also widely accepted that the integrity of the Indian culture should be preserved, not only as a contribution to cultural pluralism which enriches society as a whole, but also as a reflection of the desires of the Indian people themselves. The Indian culture is in a transition period, but the roots of Indian customs and values are deep and will not yield quickly or easily to alien customs and values. The process of moving toward self-determination is underway, and some measure of change is in the Indian picture today.
(Author/NQ)

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AMERICAN INDIANS IN TRANSITION

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ABSTRACT

The American Indian population is in a period of transition. It is young, growing, and becoming more urban. There were some improvements in income, housing, education, and health in the 1960-70 decade, but Indians remain the most disadvantaged of the minority ethnic groups in the United States. By most of the above measures, Indians, especially rural Indians, are not as well off as the U.S. population as a whole. But the Indian people are moving toward self-determination, or self-government, in programs to enhance their lives.

Key words: Indians, rural population, cultural change, self-determination, urban, Alaska Natives.

Washington, D.C. 20250

April 1975

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HIGHLIGHTS

The American Indian population is in a period of change -- economically, socially, and culturally.

The Indian population is young, growing, and becoming more urban. Median age for Indians is 20.4 years, contrasted with 28.1 years for the United States as a whole. The number of Indians grew from about a half million in 1960 to more than 760,000 in 1970. The percentage of Indians living in rural areas declined from approximately 70 percent in 1960 to 55 percent in 1970. Many Indians, especially the young, have sought employment opportunity in urban areas during the decade. And this has brought about a change in lifestyle, occupation, and certain attitudes and customs.

As the rural proportion of the Indian population has decreased, there has been a shift to nonfarm occupations. Among rural Indians, only 13 percent were white-collar workers in 1960, but 23 percent of them were so employed by 1970. Some increase in blue-collar and service work also occurred. At the same time, the percentage of employed rural Indians who were farmworkers declined sharply, from 30 percent in 1960 to only 11 percent 10 years later.

Although American Indians are deeply disadvantaged compared with other Americans, the decade of the 1960's brought improvement in some aspects of their lives. Looking at the rural Indian population, for example, the median family income went up from $2,232 in 1959 to $4,653 in 1969. This was still only about half of the median for the total rural population in both years. However, the proportion of rural Indians with less than $3,000 income was cut nearly in half during the decade 1959-69, from 62 percent to 33 percent, and the percentage having $10,000 or more family income rose from about 3 percent in 1959 to nearly 15 percent in 1969.

Trends in Indian education, health, and housing have also shown some improvement over the last decade. For example, more Indian young people are going on to college than ever before. Indian infant and maternal mortality rates have been greatly reduced, and there is now much wider acceptance of essential health services. Housing, though still poor in many rural Indian communities, has improved in recent years through renovation and new construction.

Indians are engaged in a number of activities, under the U.S. policy of "self-determination without termination," which are intended to give them greater participation in planning and carrying out programs affecting their lives and culture, without termination of the unique trust relationship between Indians and the Federal government. One example is afforded by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, in which Alaska Natives have had a voice in the disposition of their land for themselves and their posterity. Other examples of self-government, or self-determination, are in the fields of education, health, economic development, and urban programs. Many of these efforts call for new ways of doing and thinking, whether in rural or urban areas. Some further changes in the traditional Indian culture undoubtedly lie ahead.

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AMERICAN INDIANS IN TRANSITION

by

Helen W. Johnson*

INDIANS IN THE 1970's

Indian Population is Becoming More Urban

In 1970, Indian Americans remained predominantly rural -- the only minority ethnic group so classified. But they are becoming more urban. 1/ In 1960, 70 percent of Indians lived in rural areas; by 1970, the figure was only 55.4 percent (fig. 1). In contrast, people of Spanish language background were only 12 percent rural in 1970; the Negro population was 18 percent rural. More than 26 percent of the total U.S. population was classified as rural. These and most other data in this report come from the 1970 Census. 2/

The Indian population increased from about 500,000 in 1960 to more than 760,000 by 1970 3/ (table 1). There are some Indians in every State and the District of Columbia, but only 10 States have more then 20,000 (fig. 2). Oklahoma has the largest number of Indians -- 96,803; Arizona is a close second with 94,310, and California is third with 88,263 (app. table A-1). In the East, only two States have more than 20,000 Indians -- North Carolina with 44,195, and New York with 25,560.

As in the U.S. rural population as a whole, the Indian rural population has become overwhelmingly nonfarm. In 1970, 89 percent of rural Indians had a nonfarm residence, compared with 80 percent in the total U.S. rural population. This represents a marked change since 1960, when only 79 percent of rural Indians were classified as nonfarm.

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1/ The urban population consists of all persons living in urbanized areas and in places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside urbanized areas; the population not classified as urban constitutes the rural population.

2/ The 1970 census data used in this report are the only statistics available on American Indians on a national basis,and are intended mainly to give a benchmark picture of some aspects of the rural Indian situation compared with the total U.S. rural population in 1970.

3/ This figure does not include about 35,000 Eskimos and Aleuts in Alaska who, with Indians, are collectively called Alaska Natives.

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FIGURE 1

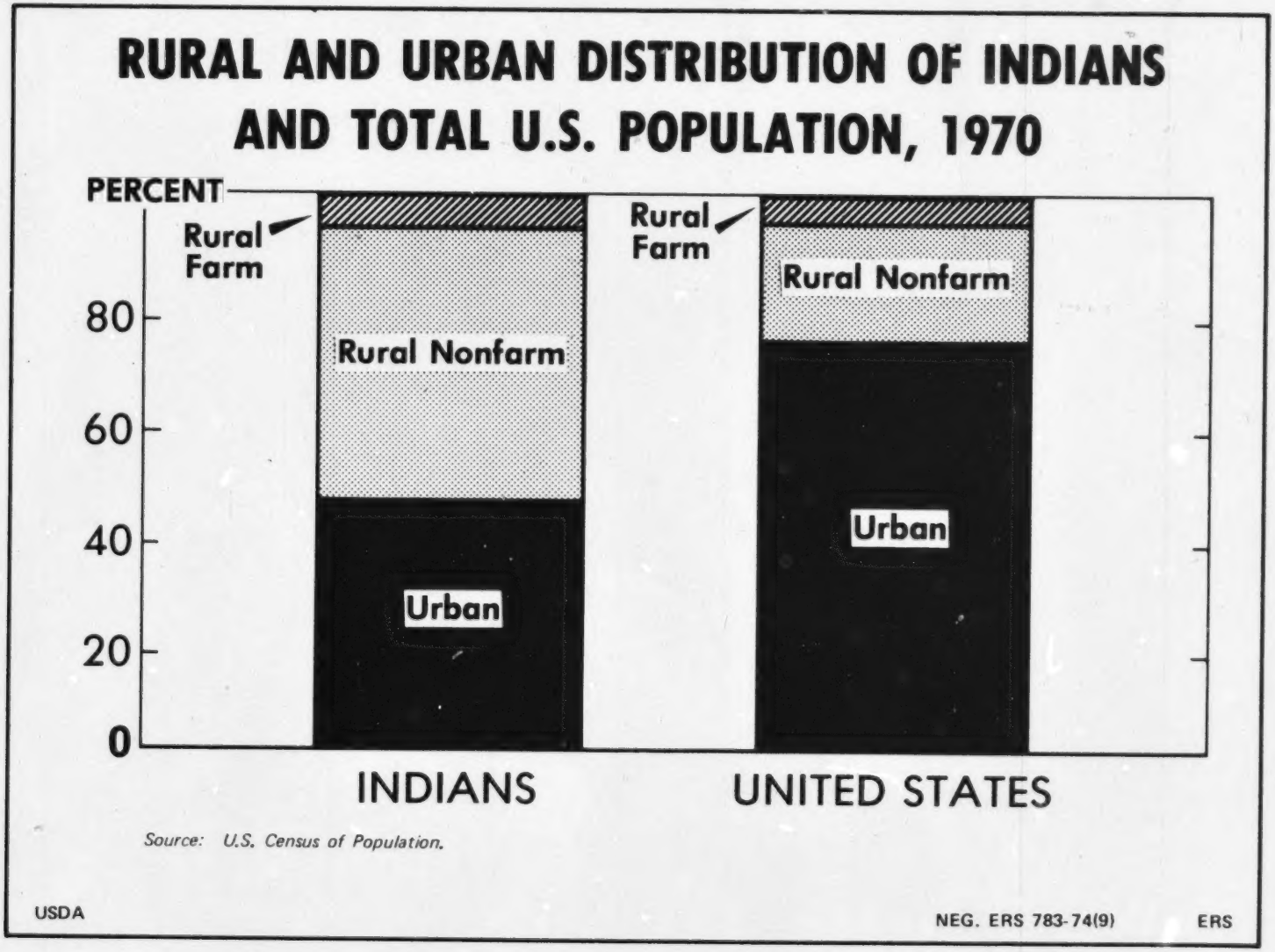

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Table 1--Distribution of Indian population, by urban and rural residence, 1970 1/

Area	Total	Urban	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm	Rural total	Percent rural
	Numbers					
United States	2/ 763,594	340,367	375,822	47,405	423,227	55.4
Regions:						
Northeast	45,720	32,808	12,564	348	12,912	28.2
North Central	144,254	72,596	64,449	7,209	71,658	49.7
South	194,406	89,064	89,424	15,918	105,342	54.2
West	379,214	145,899	209,385	23,930	233,315	61.5
Divisions:						
New England	10,362	7,459	2,840	63	2,903	28.0
Middle Atlantic	35,358	25,349	9,724	285	10,009	28.3
East No. Central	54,578	34,937	18,683	958	19,641	36.0
West No. Central	89,676	37,659	45,766	6,251	52,017	58.0
South Atlantic	65,367	20,289	35,379	9,699	45,078	69.0
East So. Central	8,708	3,817	4,431	460	4,891	56.2
West So. Central	120,331	64,958	49,614	5,759	55,373	46.0
Mountain	229,669	49,889	158,672	21,108	179,780	78.3
Pacific	149,545	96,010	50,713	2,822	53,535	35.8

1/ Data are based on a 20-percent sample adjusted to represent the total population.

2/ Excludes Aleuts and Eskimos in Alaska.

Source: (9), table 1. (Underscored numbers in parentheses refer to items in reference list, p. 35.)

The Indian urban population totaled about 340,000 in 1970, up from 166,000 in 1960 for an increase of 105 percent. Just over 40 percent of these urban Indians lived in the West, 25 percent in the South, 20 percent in the North Central Region, and the remaining 10 percent in the Northeast. California had the largest number of urban Indians, 67,000; Oklahoma was next with 48,000. The Los Angeles urbanized area had the largest concentration of urban Indians with some 28,000 in 1970. Other cities with at least 10,000 Indians are New York, San Francisco-Oakland, and Oklahoma City.

The relatively rapid growth of the urban Indian population, as compared with rural growth, indicates substantial urbanward migration during the 1960's. A few large cities have attracted the greatest flow of migrants. The Los Angeles urbanized area has drawn Indians from many different places, but the tribes

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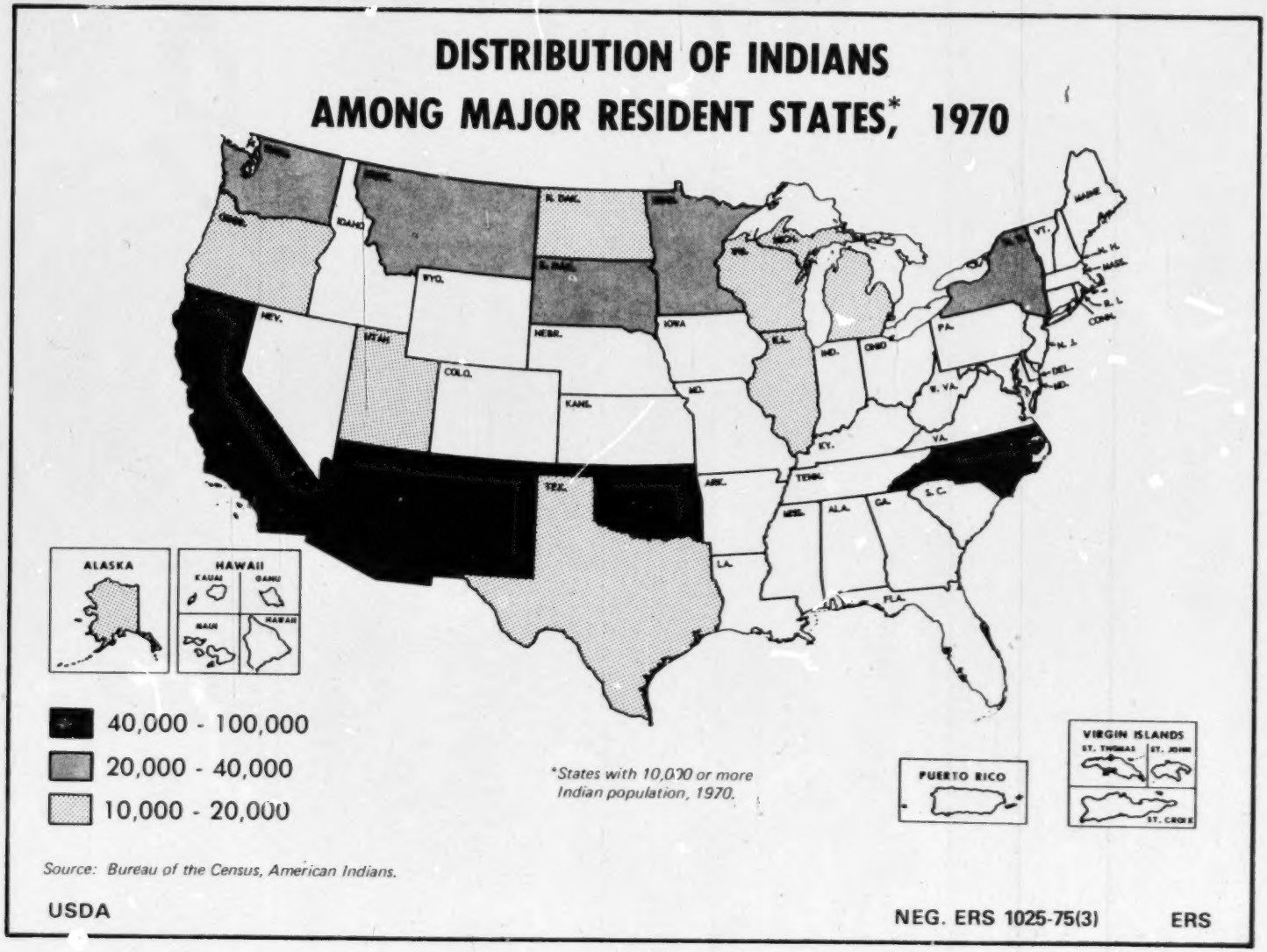
FIGURE 2


DISTRIBUTION OF INDIANS
AMONG MAJOR RESIDENT STATES,* 1970
ALASKA
HAWAII
KAUAI
OAHU
MAUI
HAWAII
40,000 - 100,000
20,000 - 40,000
10,000 - 20,000
*States with 10,000 or more Indian population, 1970.
PUERTO RICO
VIRGIN ISLANDS
ST. THOMAS
ST. JOHN
ST. CROIX
Source: Bureau of the Census, American Indians.
USDA
NEG. ERS 1025-75(3)
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most heavily represented there are the Navajo, other southwestern tribes, and the Cherokees. In Minneapolis-St. Paul, the migrants are mostly from the Chippewa and Sioux tribes; in Baltimore they are Lumbee Indians; and in New York the Mohawks. According to Calvin Beale, "The various cities have Indian populations of different cultural, linguistic, and educational backgrounds, with differing degrees of homogeneity." (2).

Outmigration from nonmetropolitan areas has been the most substantial in the Upper Midwest, where it is estimated that more than 50 percent of the Indians reaching age 20 have left. This is in contrast to a net outmigration of young people of only about 16 percent in Washington and Oregon. Thus, the migration pattern varies considerably among different parts of the country and from tribe to tribe.

Despite an indicated population increase of 38 percent in the past decade, Indians are by far the smallest of the three major ethnic groups. In 1960 and 1970, they were less than 1 percent of the total U.S. population. In 1970, people of Spanish language background, numbering slightly over 9 million, constituted 4.5 percent of the U.S. population; Negroes, at 22.5 million, were 11 percent of the total, the same as in 1960.

The median age of the Indian population is 20.4 years, slightly above the 1960 median of 19.2 years. Median age of the Spanish-language people was 20.7 in 1970 and that of the Negro population was 22.4 years. Al are far below the U.S. median of 28.1 years. In 1960 and 1970, some 60 percent of the rural Indians were under 25 years of age (app. table A-2). This compares with only 46 percent in the total U.S. rural population.

Indian fertility is markedly higher than that of the whole U.S. population, and is especially high among rural and reservation Indians. The birth rates of Indian women are, in fact, twice the rate needed to replace the Indian population in every generation. The number of children ever born among those women who have essentially completed their childbearing years (35 to 44 years old) is 4.6 in the Indian population. For the U.S. population, the figure is 3.1.

Fertility is much higher in the rural Indian population than in the U.S. total rural population. There are 5.2 children per woman for rural nonfarm and 5.4 for rural farm Indian women, compared with 3.4 and 3.6, respectively, for all rural women. On some reservations, the figures are even higher: For example, Blackfeet, Montana, 6.5; Red Lake, Minnesota, 6.8; and Yakima, Washington, 7.2.

Among urban Indians fertility per woman is 3.8 children; for the U.S. urban population, it is 3. In the three Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) 4/ with the largest number of Indians in 1970, the figures are about the normal urban level: Los Angeles-Long Beach, California, 3.4; Tulsa, Oklahoma, 3.2; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 3.4. The highest figure shown in the 1970 Census for an SMSA (among selected SMSA's with 2,500 or more Indian population) was 5.1 for Fort Smith, Arkansas-Oklahoma, which is still below

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4/ An SMSA is defined by the Census Bureau as a county or group of contiguous counties (except in New England) containing at least one central city or twin cities with at least 50,000 population.

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the level of rural Indians. The characteristically high fertility among the Indian people, especially those in rural areas, is a significant factor in their low standards of living.

Given the youthfulness of the Indian population, and its traditionally high birth rates, it is not surprising that the average family size is larger than it is in th U.S. population as a whole. Whereas only about 6 percent of U.S. families have seven or more members, the Indian population's proportion is three times that figure. Comparable figures are 25.8 percent for rural Indian families and 7.5 percent in the total rural population (app. table A-3). About one-fourth of Indian families contain two persons; more than one-third of U.S. families are that size. The overall average size of Indian families is 4.5 people, compared with 3.6 for the United States. In the rural Indian population, the difference is even greater--5, compared with 3.7 for the U.S. rural population as a whole.

Family Income is Still Generally Low

About 15 percent of all rural families had less than $3,000 income in 1969; the percentage was 33 percent among rural Indian families (table 2). Even

Table 2--Family income: Rural Indians and total population, 1959 and 1969

Income	Rural Indians		Total rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1969:				
Under $3,000	25,950	33.3	2,014,047	14.7
$3,000 - $6,999	28,428	36.5	3,724,798	27.2
$7,000 - $9,999	12,078	15.5	3,023,386	22.0
$10,000 - $14,999	8,388	10.8	3,133,447	22.8
$15,000 and over	3,065	3.9	1,820,045	13.3
Total	77,909	100.0	13,715,723	100.0
Median income	$4,653		$8,071	
1959:				
Under $3,000	40,110	62.3	4,422,589	33.5
$3,000 - $6,999	18,948	29.4	5,825,115	44.2
$7,000 - $9,999	3,659	5.7	1,824,037	13.8
$10,000 - $14,999	1,290	2.0	797,152	6.0
$15,000 and over	354	0.6	319,458	2.4
Total	64,361	100.0	13,188,351	100.0
Median income	$2,282		$4,382	

Source: (9), PC(2)1F and PC(1)C1, and (11), PC(2)1C and PC(1)1C.

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this low level of income was a dramatic improvement over 1959, when the percentages were 34 and 62 percent respectively. However, only about 4 percent of rural Indian families had incomes of $15,000 or more in 1969; the proportion was 13 percent for the total U.S. rural population.

Median family income among all Indians was $5,832 in 1970, compared with $9,590 for the U.S. population as a whole. For urban Indian families the median was $7,323; for those in rural areas, it was only $4,653. While the disparity in median income between urban and rural Indians is $2,670, between rural Indian families and all rural families it is even greater--$3,418.

About 20 percent of the Indian families (23 percent for rural) receive public assistance or public welfare income, compared with only about 5 percent among all U.S. and total rural families. The mean income from this source is $1,352 per family for all Indian families (app. table A-4). It is slightly higher for urban and lower for rural Indian families. Considering Indian family size and the large number of dependent children, public assistance income on a per capita basis is very small for many families. For example, if an average size Indian farm family of five members received $1,109 per year, it would have only about $220 per person.

Indian Poverty is Widespread

A combination of historic, economic, social, and cultural factors has contributed to the depth and persistence of Indian poverty. Limited job opportunities, generally low income, relatively poor education, and unskilled occupations offer little opportunity for rising above the poverty level. Moreover, discrimination often closes the doors to upward social and economic mobility.

About 33 percent of Indian families have incomes below the poverty level, compared with 11 percent for the total U.S. population. About 20 percent of urban Indian families had incomes below the poverty level in 1969; the proportion was more than twice that high among rural Indian families (table 3).

Eighty percent of the Indian families in poverty have related children under 18 years of age, compared with slightly over 60 percent in the total U.S. poverty population. Approximately the same proportions hold for the rural Indian and rural U.S. poverty populations.

Just over 30 percent of all U.S. and all Indian families in poverty are headed by a female. In the rural Indian poverty families, 25 percent are headed by a female, compared with about 20 percent in the total rural population. Poverty in the Indian population appears to be more directly related to the large proportion of families with dependent children than to the presence of a female family head.

Educational Picture is Brighter

There was improvement in Indian education during the 1960's in terms of higher proportions of children attending school, of high school graduates, and of those attending college. However, Indians 25 years old and over are still more than 2 years behind the U.S. population in median years of school completed.

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Table 3--Poverty status: Indians and total U.S. population, 1969

Item	Indian			United States		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
	Number					
All families	149,122	71,213	77,909	51,168,599	37,452,876	13,715,723
Income below poverty level:						
Families	49,669	14,930	34,739	5,462,216	3,382,653	2,079,563
(Percent of all families)	(33.3)	(21.0)	(44.6)	(10.7)	(9.0)	(15.2)
Mean size of family	5.04	4.39	5.32	3.88	3.82	3.96
Families with related children under 18 years of age	40,153	12,081	28,072	3,480,419	2,277,622	1,202,797
(Percent)	(80.8)	(80.9)	(80.8)	(63.7)	(67.3)	(57.8)
Families with female head	15,287	6,463	8,824	1,797,720	1,402,499	395,221
(Percent)	(30.8)	(43.3)	(25.4)	(32.9)	(41.5)	(19.0)

Source: (9), PC(2)1F, table 9, and PC(1)C1, table 95.

The national median is 12.1 years; for Indians, it is 9.8. Approximately the same lag of about 2 years is found among rural Indians compared with the total U.S. rural population -- 8.7 years for rural Indians, 11.1 years for all rural people (table 4). Furthermore, in 1970, 12 percent of Indians in rural areas had received no schooling at all, in contrast to less than 2 percent in the total rural population.

More than half of the people in the United States who are 25 years of age and older and more than 40 percent of the rural residents are high school graduates (app. table A-5), a level of education believed to be minimal to meet the needs of a modern, technological society. However, only 33 percent of all Indians, and about 24 percent of rural Indians have completed high school. Among those who have gone on to college, only 6 percent of rural Indians have done so; the proportion in the total rural population is 15 percent (fig. 3).

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reported that 197,211 Indian children, ages 5-18 inclusive, were enrolled in public, Federal, private, and mission schools in fiscal year 1972 (26). Of those enrolled, 70.2 percent attended public

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schools, some 25 percent attended Federal schools, and about 5 percent were in mission and other schools. (These data refer only to the Indians served by BIA). In States in which local school funds are inadequate because of tax-exempt Indian land and large numbers of Indian children, the Secretary of the Interior may contract with the States (through the Johnson-O'Malley Act) for the education of Indian children and the use of Federal school buildings and equipment by the local schools. In fiscal year 1972, BIA had such contracts with 13 States, 6 school districts in other States, 9 tribal groups, 7 towns adjacent to the Navajo Reservation, and Albuquerque. In 1972, there were nearly 87,000 Indian students in Johnson-O'Malley-assisted schools.

Table 4--Years of schooling completed: Rural Indians and total rural population, 1970 1/

Years of school completed	Rural Indians		Total rural population	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Total	168,814	100.0	28,864,909	100.0
No school years completed	20,828	12.3	499,856	1.7
Elementary school:				
1-4 years	17,001	10.1	1,517,000	5.3
5-7 years	29,603	17.5	3,582,600	12.4
8 years	24,135	14.3	4,767,766	16.5
High school:				
1-3 years	36,912	21.9	5,703,370	19.8
4 years	29,702	17.6	8,540,830	29.6
College:				
1-3 years	7,514	4.5	2,332,392	8.1
4 years or more	3,119	1.8	1,921,095	6.6
Median school years completed		8.7		11.1
Percent high school graduates		23.9		44.3

1/ Persons 25 years of age and over.

Source: (9), PC(2)1F and PC(1)C1.

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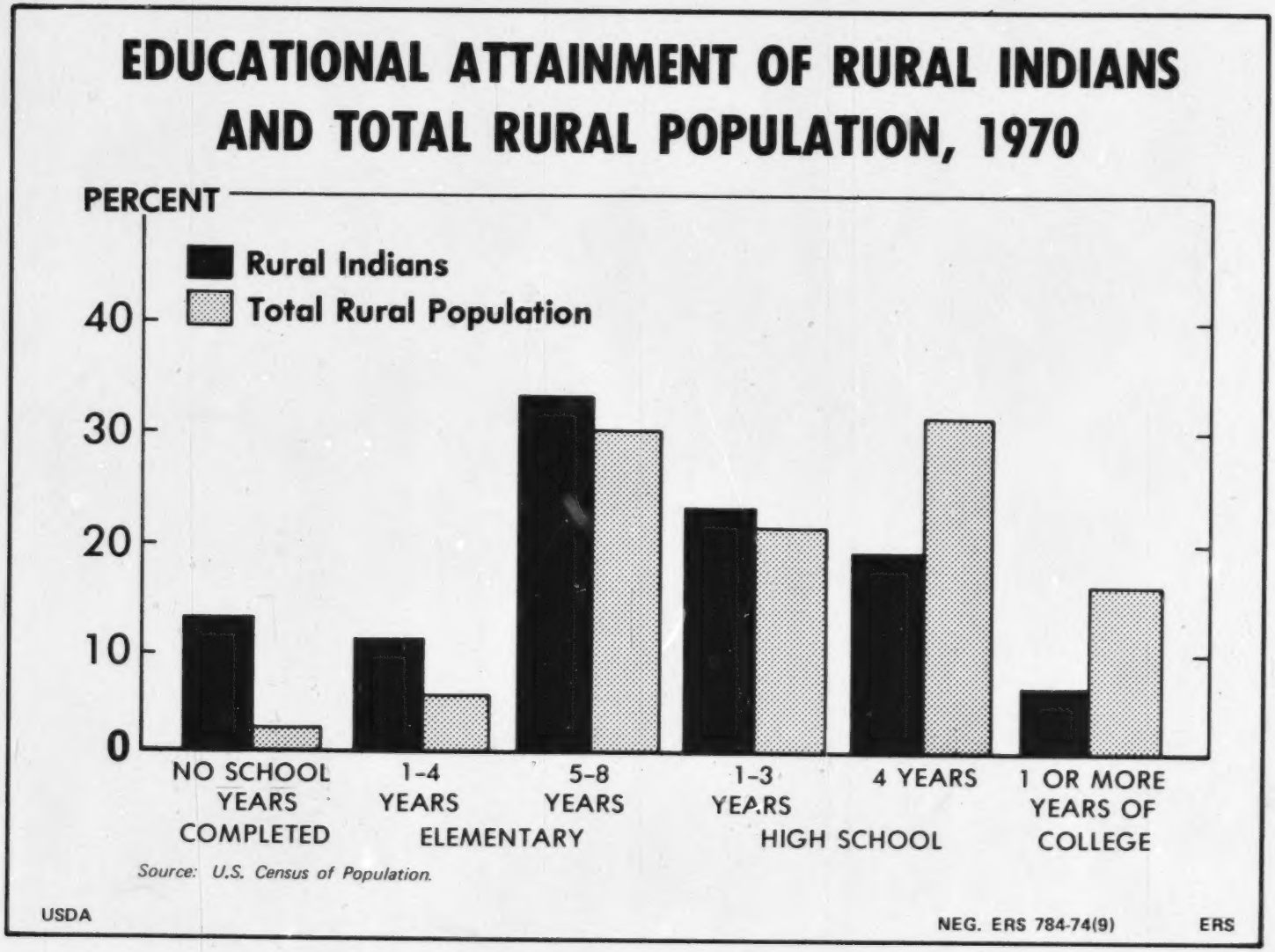
FIGURE 3



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In 1972, BIA operated nearly 200 schools with enrollments totaling 53,763 Indian children, plus 19 dormitories for 4,025 children attending public schools. Five-year-olds have been included in the school-age coverage since 1969 when kindergarten classes were started in some BIA-operated schools. In fiscal year 1972, there were kindergarten classes in 89 schools, all on a day basis, representing some 5 percent of total Indian school enrollment.

A full 4-year course was offered in 1972 in 27 Federal secondary schools. In addition, eight other schools provided high school training, but not a 4-year course. The largest proportion of BIA enrollment, about 42 percent of the total, is among children in kindergarten and the first four grades. Many Indian children transfer to public schools at the 6th grade, which helps account for a relatively small number of graduates from Federal high schools.

Indian education (at the elementary and secondary school levels) in BIA facilities has been strengthened considerably by programs funded under P.L. 89-10, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. To meet the special problems of bilingualism and psychological and physical handicaps, and to give added attention to basic skills, many Indian students have been helped by projects supported in this legislation, both in regular school terms and in summer programs.

BIA has greatly increased the number of students assisted through its scholarship program. In 1950, there were only 139 such college-assisted students. By 1970, the number had grown to 4,271, and, in 1971, to 6,623. This was doubled in 1972 to 12,438. Progress has been especially notable at the college level in that many Indians are now attending professional schools and are using their training in law, engineering, and other fields to help in reservation development.

Health Status of Indians is Improving

In general, the Indian health picture is improving. However, when compared with the total U.S. population, Indian health in many respects is poor. For example, while infant and maternal mortality rates have been greatly reduced in recent years, they continue to be considerably higher than for the U.S. population as a whole (app. table A-6). Health services of all kinds have substantially increased since 1955 when the Public Health Service (PHS) assumed responsibility, through its Indian Health Service (IHS), for comprehensive health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives 5/. However, the problems in providing these services are serious and longstanding.

In the 1970 report of the Public Health Service, "Indian Health Trends and Services," IHS Director Emery A. Johnson summarized the situation in this way: "To generalize, the inferior health status of Indians and Alaska Natives results from their impoverished socio-economic status, limited education, poor and crowded housing, inadequate nutrition, lack of basic sanitary facilities, unsafe water supplies, gross unsanitary practices, and emotional problems inherent in a transitional culture." (23, 1970 ed., p. iii).

5/ IHS serves Indians and Alaska Natives in 24 reservation States.

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In the 1974 report, Director Johnson says, "Substantial gains have been made, but much remains to be done before we reach our goal of elevating the health status of Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest possible level. Their problems are more diverse, more severe, and are further compounded by a number of cultural, socio-economic and geographic-environmental factors." (23, 1974 ed., p. iii).

Various measures can be used to reflect the health condition of a given population group. The trend in mortality rates is one such indicator. Among Indians and Alaska Natives, the infant death rate per 1,000 live births was cut by two-thirds between 1955 and 1972, from 62.5 to 20.9. The 1972 rate was 13 percent, or about 1.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, higher than for the United States, all races, which was 18.5 in 1972. Similarly, maternal death rates per 100,000 live births were reduced dramatically, from 82.6 in 1958 to 37.9 in 1972 6/ (app. table A-6).

Accidents continue to be the leading cause of death among Indians and Alaska Natives. One of every five deaths in this population results from an accident, compared with less than 1 out of 16 deaths in the U.S. population. Diseases of the heart and malignant neoplasms are the second and third leading causes of death among the Indians; they rank first and second in the U.S. population. On the increase since 1955 are crude death rates from cirrhosis of the liver, suicides, diabetes mellitus, and homicides. Major reductions have occurred, however, for enteritis and other diarrheal diseases, tuberculosis, influenza and pneumonia, certain causes of mortality in early infancy, and congenital anomalies (23, 1974 ed., p. 31).

Life expectancy is another measure often cited in judging the general health status of a population. The Indian and Alaska Natives' life expectancy increased 3.4 years in the decade following 1960. In 1970, it was 65.1 years for Indians and Alaska Natives, and 70.9 years for the U.S. population.

Reflecting the importance of environmental causes of the inferior health status of Indians and Alaska Natives mentioned earlier, IHS is giving increased emphasis to its environmental health program. This consists of consultation, services, and facilities construction designed to improve sanitation in Indian homes and communities, and at Indian celebrations, trading posts, and commercial enterprises serving Indians, as well as in new Federal and tribal housing. Particular attention is being given to trying to provide adequate water supply and waste disposal systems in all new housing and, through follow-up surveys, seeing that advice on maintaining sanitary conditions throughout the communities is heeded.

To mount a health care program dealing with such serious health deficiencies found in the Indian population requires an increasing number of services and health personnel. Acceptance of such a program appears to have grown, as indicated by the increase in users, admissions to hospitals, and workloads of specialized health manpower. Admissions to PHS Indian and contract hospitals increased from about 50,000 in 1955 to 102,500 in 1972, or 105 percent. Out-

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6/ Indian Health Service, Office of Program Statistics.

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patient visits to PHS Indian hospitals and visits to field clinics have also grown substantially nearly every year since 1955. While the number of pharmacists in 1969 was 5 times as high as in 1955, the number of workload units performed was over 25 times as high. The number of Public Health nursing personnel increased 25 percent between fiscal years 1964 and 1970, while the number of families served increased 46 percent. The IHS dental program, placing primary emphasis on the younger age groups, met more than half of the dental needs of Indian children (5 to 14 years of age) in fiscal year 1969. For the service population as a whole, the proportion of requirements met was about one-fourth. 7/

As would be expected in an expanding program and for a growing population, the cost of providing health care services has risen substantially. IHS obligations in 1955, when it assumed responsibility for the Indian Service population, totaled $24.6 million. In 1972, the figure was $155.1 million. More than half of the 1972 total, or $78.8 million, was for direct patient care; $44.4 million was for field health services, $29.5 million for contract patient care, and $2.4 million for administration (14, p. 44). Direct patient care is provided in IHS-operated hospitals.

Unemployment Rates Remain High in Indian Labor Force

The U.S. civilian labor force (16 years old and over) totaled 80 million persons in 1970. The unemployment rate was 3.9 percent for males and 5.2 percent for females. The Indian civilian labor force, numbering about 214,000, had unemployment rates twice as high, or 11.6 percent for males and 10.2 percent for females (app. table A-7). The number of Indians not in the labor force exceeded the number in the total labor force by more than 9,000. Out of a potential Indian labor force of 453,000, just over half were not in it. This compares with 42 percent for the total U.S. labor force.

Among rural workers, unemployment rates were somewhat higher among nonfarm than farm people, in both the Indian and U.S. total populations. For Indians, the rates were 14.8 percent for the rural nonfarm males and 8.2 percent for rural farm males. In the total rural population, the figures were 4.3 and 2.4 percent respectively for males. In the rural Indian population, 136,000 people, or 58 percent of the rural total 16 years old and over, were not in the labor force, compared with 45 percent in the total rural population.

On and near reservations, the rates of unemployment and underemployment in the resident Indian population are extremely high. A March 1973 BIA labor force survey revealed an overall rate of unemployment and underemployment of 55 percent. 8/ Among the 25 States covered in the survey, this combined rate

7/ The IHS service population represents all Indians and Alaska Natives who look to the Indian Health Service for essential health services. They live in the 24 reservation States.

8/ The combined rate of unemployment and underemployment used here is the percent of those in the BIA labor force survey, 16 years old and over, who are unemployed and those with temporary employment (underemployed).

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ranged from 28 percent in Oregon and 30 percent in Kansas to as high as 77 percent in Alaska and 78 percent in Nebraska (18).

There was also considerable variation among the reservations. The majority of the reported rates were well above 50 percent, rising to 91 percent in the Bethel Agency of the Juneau area in Alaska. Unemployment and underemployment as severe as this clearly calls for alleviation through additional employment opportunities on and near reservations. National Indian policy supports economic development programs on reservations to help meet this need.

Rural Indians Shift to Nonfarm Occupations

The distribution of occupations among rural Indians changed during 1960-70. For example, only 13 percent of rural Indians held white-collar jobs in 1960, but this proportion had increased to 23 percent by 1970 (table 5). A rise also

Table 5--Employment distribution by occupation: Rural Indians and total rural population, 1960 and 1970 1/

Occupational group	Rural Indians		Total rural population	
1970	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White collar workers	20,022	23.1	6,498,574	34.4
Blue collar workers	40,284	46.4	8,096,112	42.9
Service workers	16,766	19.3	2,198,414	11.6
Farm workers	9,678	11.2	2,098,193	11.1
Total	86,750	100.0	18,891,293	100.0
1960				
White collar workers	7,892	13.4	4,752,562	28.6
Blue collar workers	25,241	42.8	6,707,235	40.3
Service workers	8,382	14.2	1,566,678	9.4
Farm workers	17,506	29.6	3,604,185	21.7
Total 2/	59,021	100.0	16,630,660	100.0

1/ 14 years old and older.
2/ Excludes workers not reported.

White collar workers: Professional and technical; managers and administrators except farm, sales, clerical.
Blue collar workers: Craftsmen and foremen, operatives, nonfarm laborers.
Service workers: Private household, service.
Farm workers: Farmers and farm managers, farm laborers, farm foremen.

Sources: (9), PC(2)1F and PC(1)C1, 1970 and (11).

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occurred in this type of occupation in the total U.S. rural population, from 29 to 34 percent. Some increase was observed in both population groups with respect to blue collar and service employment. Simultaneously, the proportion of rural Indian employment in farm work decreased from 30 percent to 11 percent. In the total rural population, the proportion declined from 22 to 11 percent.

As in 1960, more than 40 percent of employed rural Indians and of all rural workers were in blue collar jobs in 1970 (app. table A-8). Among service workers, there was a considerably higher share in that category in the rural Indian population (19.3 percent) than in the U.S. rural population (11.6 percent). The changes since 1960 and the distribution of occupations in 1970 reflect the increasingly nonfarm composition of the rural population (fig. 4).

Employment by Industry Groups Also Changes

Among rural Indians, 27.6 percent were employed in services of various kinds in 1970, up from 20.5 percent in 1960 (table 6). Some 22 percent were engaged in

Table 6--Employment distribution by industry: Rural Indians and total rural population, 1960 1/ and 1970 2/

Industry	Rural Indians		U.S. rural population	
	1960	1970	1960	1970
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	31.9	13.1	22.8	12.0
Mining	2.9	2.1	2.1	1.6
Construction	10.0	9.1	7.2	7.9
Manufacturing	15.1	21.9	24.8	27.9
Transportation, commerce, and public utilities	5.9	5.0	5.4	5.8
Wholesale and retail trade	7.2	10.0	14.9	16.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.3	1.0	2.1	2.8
Services:	20.5	27.6	17.0	21.0
Business and repair	1.0	1.6	1.9	2.2
Personal	6.7	5.6	5.2	4.2
Entertainment and recreational	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Professional and related	12.3	19.8	9.4	14.1
Public administration	6.2	10.2	3.7	4.2
Total employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ 14 years old and over and totals exclude not reported for 1960.
2/ Indian data relate to 14 years and over and U.S. data 16 years old and over for 1970.

Sources: (9) PC(2)1F, table 7; PC(1)C1, table 92; and (11) PC(2)1C, table 33 and PC(1)1C, table 91.

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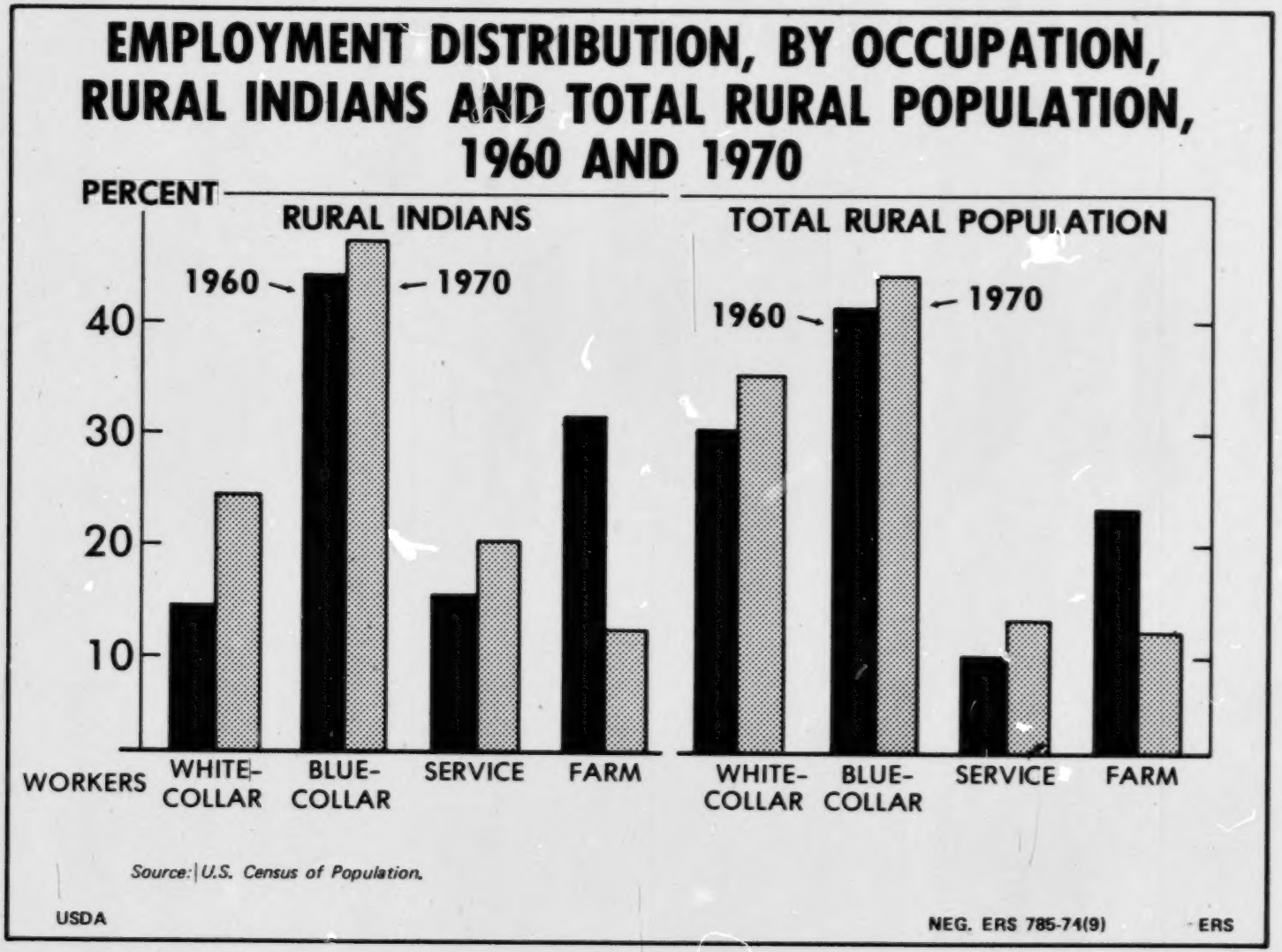
FIGURE 4



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manufacturing in 1970, an increase from 15 percent a decade earlier. In the U.S. rural population, there were smaller increases in both of these industry groups, but the largest share of the rural total was employed in manufacturing in both 1960 and 1970. During the 1960's, the percentage in agriculture in both population groups declined drastically. Among rural Indians, the decrease was from 32 percent in 1960 to 13 percent in 1970. In the total rural population, the decline was less precipitate--from 23 percent to 12 percent.

The only other industries commanding a significant portion of the rural Indians employed in 1970 were wholesale and retail trade and public administration (app. table A-9). In the rural population as a whole, 17 percent were employed in trade; each of the remaining industry groups had less than 10 percent of the workers. The trend in both rural population groups over the decade was toward nonagricultural industries as the need for workers in agriculture continued to decrease.

Rural Housing Ownership is High,
but Housing Quality is Low

In 1970, about 60 percent of the rural Indian housing units were owner-occupied, compared with 75 percent in the total rural population (app. table A-10). However, in urban areas, ownership is far lower among the Indian population (38.4 percent) than for the total U.S. urban population (58.4 percent). For the Indian population as a whole, owner-occupancy is about 50 percent.

Various measures are used to indicate the quality of housing, although no single index is really definitive. Since quality is itself difficult to define, its measurement is even more difficult. One indicator of inadequacy commonly used, however, is lack of complete plumbing facilities in the dwelling. By this standard, 46 percent of rural Indian dwellings would be classified as inadequate in 1970, compared with 15 percent for the total U.S. rural population. These proportions were much higher in rural than urban areas for both population groups, whether the housing units were owned or rented.

Another measure frequently used is that of crowding, or the amount of space available to serve the needs of the household. A dwelling is considered crowded if there is more than one resident per room. More than two out of five rural Indian homes are crowded according to this standard, whether they are owned or rented. Housing for the Indian urban population is less crowded. In 1970, 19 percent of the dwellings in urban areas were considered crowded, compared with 44 percent among rural households. For the total Indian population, the proportion is just under one-third; in the U.S. total rural population, it is only 1 in 10.

Half of the owner-occupied housing units of rural Indians were valued at less than $5,000 in 1970 (table 7). In the U.S. rural population, the figure was only 14 percent. For both groups, about one-fourth of the dwellings were valued at $5,000-$10,000. Only 6 percent of rural Indian housing units were valued at $20,000 or more; more than 25 percent were in that category in the total rural population. The median value of housing for rural people as a whole was more than twice as high ($12,900) as for rural Indians ($5,000).

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Table 7--Value of owner-occupied housing: Rural Indians and total rural population, 1970

Value	Rural Indians		Total rural population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than $5,000	16,594	49.6	1,053,747	14.0
$5,000 - $9,999	8,213	24.6	1,765,238	23.4
$10,000 - $14,999	4,266	12.8	1,513,101	20.0
$15,000 - $19,999	2,254	6.7	1,235,585	16.4
$20,000 - $24,999	1,002	3.0	808,109	10.7
$25,000 or more	1,104	3.3	1,170,044	15.5
Total units 1/	33,433	100.0	7,545,824	100.0
Median	$5,000		$12,900	

1/ Limited to one-family homes on less than 10 acres and no business on property.

Source: (9) PC(2)1F, table 10; and (10) HC(1)B1, table 31.

Improving the quality of Indian housing is the objective of a program started by BIA in 1965. This Housing Improvement Program (HIP) strives for "decent, safe, and sanitary housing in a suitable environment" for every Indian family (14, pp. 678-688). In addition to the provisions of its own program, HIP attempts to help Indian families and communities take part in other Federal housing programs for low-income people, such as those of Housing and Urban Development, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Housing Administration, and Veterans Administration.

HIP offers three types of financial and/or technical assistance: (1) for repairs, renovations, and enlargement of existing structures; (2) for new housing where necessary; and (3) for grants to reduce the size of loans required to obtain adequate housing under a tribal or Federal credit program. Sometimes, HIP funds are combined with training program efforts to utilize trainee labor and instructors to extend resources for housing improvement.

The HIP program is generally carried out through contracts with tribal organizations or private contractors, or through grants to individuals who can then do their own purchasing or contracting. These methods may or may not involve BIA technical assistance. There are about 100 tribal housing authorities; these are the chief vehicles through which HIP operates, under the administrative supervision of BIA area directors.

HIP has grown from a funding level of $500,000 and 64 starts (renovated or new construction) in 1965 to $10.5 million and 5,000 starts in 1973. So great is the need for new and improved housing for Indian families and communities,

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however, it was estimated in 1973 that more than 48,000 new or renovated dwellings are still needed. At the present pace of the program, it may take two decades to accomplish the needed housing improvement with BIA resources.

Despite Improvement, Problems Remain

The current status of American Indians discussed in the foregoing pages shows that progress has been made in some aspects of their lives. Starting from a level of extreme disadvantage, however, improvements in income, employment, education, health, and housing still leave Indians far behind other Americans. Among rural Indians, the disparity is even greater. Income is generally lower, poverty deeper, education more limited, health poorer, and housing more inadequate than in the total U.S. rural population.

In addition, American Indians bear psychological problems engendered by a minority group position in the society, as well as the uncertainties of a culture in transition. Indians are moving quite rapidly from a rural to an urban population group, involving many difficult adjustments. And until the larger problem of acculturation vis-a-vis separatism, or some middle ground between the two, is resolved, there will be anxiety on the part of the minority about its role and potential in a modern, urbanized economy. Both economic and cultural handicaps are likely to make the transition period ahead an uneasy one.

A CULTURE IN TRANSITION

The President's 1970 Message to the Congress on Indian Affairs stated that, "The time has come to break decisively with the past and to create the conditions for a new era in which the Indian future is determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions." In discussing "the historic and legal relationship between the Federal government and Indian communities," the Message further stated that, "In the past, this relationship has oscillated between two equally harsh and unacceptable extremes" (8, pp, 894-895). These extremes are "forced termination" and "excessive paternalism."

Forced termination of the trustee relationship with the U.S. government has had unfavorable results in the few places where it has been carried out. The opposite extreme, which has fostered excessive paternalism, has been not only ineffective, but also harmful to the Indian population. The present goal is "to strengthen the Indian's sense of autonomy without threatening his sense of community. We must assure the Indian that he can assume control of his own life without being separated involuntarily from the tribal group. And we must make it clear that Indians can become independent of Federal control without being cut off from Federal concern and Federal support" (8, p. 896).

Although Indians are full-fledged, legal citizens of the United States, entitled to the same rights and privileges as all other citizens, special programs have been carried out for most of them because of the unique trustee role of the Federal Government and the reservation status of the majority of Indians. Many Federal programs have been designed to improve income, employment, health, and education of the Indian people, but they have been operated mainly for them, not by them.

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The purpose of the policy of self-determination is quite clearly to enable Indians to control and take responsibility for the special programs or services provided under the trustee relationship with the Federal Government. This is done through legal contracts between tribal groups and Federal agencies administering the programs, with money set aside by Congress for particular services. It is also intended to give Indians some options as to the directions of their lives, whether to live and work on the reservations or in cities. In a population group as diverse as American Indians, implementation of self-government is very complex, and progress toward achieving it is uneven among the numerous tribal groups.

Alaska Natives--A Case in Point

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 9/ is a recent example of a U.S. effort to place more responsibility for the Indian's future in his control, and at the same time redress past wrongs. Widely regarded as a generous settlement and full of promise, it is too early to assess its impact on the lives of Alaska Natives (Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts).

Alaska Natives represent a culture already in transition. Isolated by distance from the rest of the United States, socially and economically disadvantaged by most standards, and even separated from each other by great expanses of frozen wastes, the village residents of Alaska are torn between the deep roots in their past culture, and the forces pulling them into the ways of a modern society. The principal link between the past and present is their physical heritage--land and strategic location. Untapped sources of wealth hold promise of unprecedented economic growth and development in Alaska. The process of reclaiming, in just terms, what is rightfully theirs brings the Alaska Natives face to face with the complexities of bureaucracy, land selection and administration, and safeguarding their resources for themselves and their posterity.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act is a complex piece of legislation. It calls for the appropriation of nearly $1 billion over a period of years and outlines the procedure for "a fair and just settlement of all claims by Natives and Native groups of Alaska." The intent of the law is that the settlement "be accomplished rapidly, with certainty, in conformity with the real economic and social needs of Natives, without litigation, with maximum participation by Natives in decisions affecting their rights and property," and in general, to avoid wardship and other relationships setting the Natives apart from other citizens of the United States.

Various entities or structures have been established to carry out the purposes of the Act. The Alaska Native Fund, in the U.S. Treasury, carries a total of $462.5 million from general funds, authorized to be appropriated in varying amounts over a period of 11 fiscal years. To receive and handle these and other funds, there are Regional Corporations, one for each of 12 geographic regions of Alaska. These regions correspond generally with the locations of existing Native Associations. They represent, as far as possible, Natives with

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9/ P.L. 92-203, approved December 18, 1971.

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a common heritage and common interests. At another level are Village Corporations, which receive funds from the Regional Corporations in their own areas. They are composed of the Native residents of each Native village entitled under the Act to lands and benefits.

One of the most interesting features of the legislation is the process of land selection by the Natives, to be accomplished over a 3-year period from the date of enactment of the law. Some 205 Native villages are listed as eligible for land benefits from withdrawn public lands under public land laws and from selection under the Alaska Statehood Act. Villages are considered ineligible for land selection if they had fewer than 25 resident Natives in 1970, or if they are of a modern or urban character and the majority of the residents are non-Natives. The Village Corporation for each eligible village is permitted to select all of the land in the township in which it is located, plus some acreage for future growth.

Involved in this Native Claims Settlement are 40 million acres of land. The Village Corporations are to select 22 million acres of withdrawn public lands, and 11 Regional Corporations are to be allocated 16 million acres by the Secretary of the Interior on the basis of the number of Natives enrolled in each region. (A special provision is made for the twelfth region in southeastern Alaska because of an earlier court case against the United States.) Each Regional Corporation is to reallocate such acreage among the villages in its region on an equitable basis after considering historic use, subsistence needs, and population. An additional 2 million acres of unreserved and unappropriated public lands may be withdrawn and conveyed by the Secretary of the Interior for certain stated purposes.

The basic land selection process is in the hands of the Natives themselves through their Village Corporations, and their rights and claims to lands and benefits are to be satisfied. Numerous safeguards are included to keep land and business profits protected for present and future Native people and their home villages, and to honor valid existing rights and claims. This Act is intended as a final settlement of all Native claims, thus superseding claims under prior legislation. Also, with one exception (Annette Island Reserve), Village Corporations will take the place of reservations.

The magnitude and complexity of what this Act has undertaken to accomplish in a relatively short period of time to settle longstanding claims of many thousands of Native villagers, make the task a formidable one. Many legal and socio-political issues will arise in trying to achieve "fair and just" settlements and to meet the "real economic and social needs of Natives." Nevertheless, this landmark legislation opens the way to a new era and brings those most directly involved, the Alaska Natives, into a period of rapid change.

For most of the Alaska Natives, the transition that is occurring and gaining momentum is one of moving from a subsistence to a money economy. Many will enter for the first time the price and market system with newly acquired lands, mineral resources, and business enterprises. Even though precaution has been taken to avoid dissipation of long-sought benefits from land claims, the Act specifically states that the Alaska Natives be afforded "maximum participation" in determining what happens to their property and their rights. This is a new

role for most villagers. It will require a great deal of patience and understanding of complex legal and business matters, and very probably a different style of living and working. There will be much community effort, through the Village Corporations, rather than by individuals acting on their own. Considerable technical guidance and help will undoubtedly be necessary to resolve the many problems bound to arise. A whole new pattern of living is in the offing. And the impact of the Alaska pipeline is yet to come!

SELF-DETERMINATION POLICY STIMULATES CHANGE

The groundwork for carrying out the U.S. policy of "self-determination without termination" for American Indians is being laid in Federal programs in a number of different ways. The overall direction of this effort is to place decision-making and, where possible, the actual operation of programs and services in the hands of the Indians themselves. A change in policy of this magnitude inevitably brings about change in historic Indian customs, attitudes, and values. To make the present policy succeed, time will be required to prepare the way for Indians to adopt unaccustomed roles and perform unfamiliar tasks.

The principal structure through which self-determination efforts are being conducted is the tribal organization at the local or reservation level. In the early days of this country, the tribal council was an effective form of self-government. When the United States took over the trustee responsibility for American Indians on reservations and performed numerous services for them, tribal governments lost their purpose and fell into decay. After the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, they began to revive as instruments of self-government among the tribes. Today, they represent the primary mechanism for initiating action and articulating Indian problems and needs on the reservation. They are an essential link between reservation Indians and Federal programs of assistance.

Participation Increases in Health and Education Programs

One of the first steps Indians must take before operating their own programs is to become increasingly involved in them. In the health area, this has been done through greater participation in all facets of planning and evaluating the IHS delivery system, helping to operate some programs, and gaining professional experience and training in various skills. IHS has fostered the development of these skills through various health-related training programs. It operates training programs in the following allied health professional services: community, dental, nursing, and nutritional health; X-ray and laboratory technology; and social work. These programs are conducted to enable Indian employees to gain necessary skills to participate as allied health professionals within IHS programs. In addition, IHS provides funds for long-term training (tuition and other support), and the Commissioned Officer Student Extern Training Program (Co-Step), which provides part-time employment for students pursuing professional degrees.

Recently, reservation Indians have taken a more active part through their tribal councils, tribal health boards, health authorities, and advisory committees in

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improving and extending acceptance of health programs, locating additional resources, and devising new methods of solving their health problems. Trained Indians and Alaska Natives are widely employed by IHS and by tribal groups. They also serve as Community Health Aides to provide liaison between their communities and existing health services. The National Indian Health Board provides a link between IHS and local Indian health entities.

Under contract arrangements with IHS, several Indian groups have undertaken the operation of their own health care systems. For example, the California Rural Indian Health Board, with a "seed" budget from IHS, has added State, local, and private funds to provide health services for about 38,000 Indians in 32 rural counties and 50 Indian reservations (14, p. 4). Also, the United Southeastern Tribes Intertribal Council has an agreement with IHS "to coordinate and insure the delivery of all available health services to Indians residing in Mississippi, North Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana" (14, p. 5). Some groups, such as the Navajo health authority, are moving into the management side of comprehensive health programs.

As IHS Director Johnson put it, "...the growth of Indian participation in the management of Indian Health Service programs is indicative of the growth of Indian participation in the self-determination process" (14, p. 5).

In the field of education, considerable progress has been made in enlisting the cooperation of Indian educators, tribal groups, and individuals in Indian communities to improve the quality and scope of education at all levels. The Indian Education Subcommittee, formerly in the National Council on Indian Opportunity, was composed of nine Indian educators, and was available to offer technical assistance to Indian communities wishing to establish school boards. It also reviewed and evaluated the status of education of all Indian school children, including preparation of a report on the extent of local control of Indian education. At the local level, many Indians work as teacher aides, home visitors, and counselors, especially in interpreting cross-cultural behavior for school officials and parents. In some places, adult education programs are contracted by BIA to tribal groups. Some 16 programs, contracted to tribes in whole or in part, are designed to enable adult Indians, on a part-time basis near their homes, to improve their chances for employment or additional education.

There are varying levels of Indian participation in, and responsibility for, the operation of schools for their children. Indian involvement in BIA-operated schools or public schools with a large number of Indian students may consist of total control through the school board, or may be only voluntary participation in planning or conducting special educational programs. Perhaps the highest degree of Indian responsibility is found in the 12 schools which BIA has under contract with tribal groups in 7 different States. Some are elementary and others are secondary schools; some are day schools, some are boarding schools, and three are a combination of day and boarding. Together, they serve more than 2,000 students. This contract system "provides for the development, training, and related expenses of Indian School Boards and for the operation of schools under management contracts to Indian School Boards or tribal cooperatives" (14, p. 593). To whatever extent Indian people operate or assist in the

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educational programs of their children, they are building a foundation for self-determination and increasing participation in programs and services affecting their lives.

Indian Economic Development Moves Ahead

The policy of self-determination has turned more and more activity toward building up the reservations. Not only are boarding schools yielding to schools in or near Indian communities, but efforts are underway to attract industry and business to reservation sites. The purpose is not only to improve the income and employment situation of Indians, but also to give Indian tribes, groups, and individuals greater opportunity for ownership and development of their economic resources. Specific targets of the BIA industrial and tourism development program, for example, are to provide more jobs and payrolls in Indian country; develop facilities to accommodate commercial and industrial enterprises, particularly for processing products from agricultural, mineral, and other Indian-owned resources; train Indian people as employees, as well as in ownership and management skills; find sources of financing for local economic projects, including financial institutions of their own; and publicize commercial and industrial resource potentials for doing business in Indian labor force areas (14, p. 716).

Several Federal agencies have assisted in promoting economic development on reservations. The principal participants in this program have been the BIA, Economic Development Administration, Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Departments of Labor and Housing and Urban Development. Manpower training programs, technical assistance, and planning grants from these agencies have all helped in this activity.

Tribal leaders and Indian groups have taken considerable initiative in organizing and promoting business ventures which are or will be Indian owned and controlled. For example, 10 years ago, the Navajos invested $8.5 million of their own money in the Navajo Forest Products Industries. The business has since brought profits of some $30 million to the tribe. The American Indian National Bank, owned and operated by Indians, has been established in Washington, D.C., to help in the financing of Indian economic development projects. There has also been established the American Indian Travel Commission to promote tourism on Indian lands. With the help of BIA in locating or expanding industry for Indians, as of December 1972, there were 237 industrial and commercial enterprises in Indian labor force areas, employing about 7,400 Indians. These are mostly manufacturing and processing plants, providing not only employment and training, but also rental income from tribal property.

Also contributing to self-determination is the work being done in the training field. The Indian Action Team Program was started by BIA 2 years ago. Through it, assistance funds are given to tribes that train and employ Indians in construction work on reservations. This program had 30 demonstration projects in 14 locations in 1973 where Indians were building their own facilities. Training is provided by the Indians themselves, who are generally BIA staff members, skilled in carpentry, bricklaying, plumbing, painting, bulldozer or lathe operation, and who return to the reservation to teach others. As the apprentices become trained, they move up to jobs as foremen or supervisors and in turn teach their skills to additional trainees on a part-time basis. This

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program not only gives Indians a hand in construction, maintenance, and management of reservation roads and buildings, but provides them with skills necessary to become involved in the general improvement of reservation life.

Self-Determination Activities Undertaken by Urban Indians

Despite the redirection of policy toward economic development on reservations, more than 300,000 tribal Indians have left their communities. They do not receive the services provided to federally recognized tribes on reservations or in Indian communities. These are, for the most part, Indians who have themselves decided to seek training or employment away from the reservation. Many have gone to large cities, where they find adjustment difficult because of language problems, customs alien to them, and complex situations endemic to large aggregations of people competing for living space and employment opportunities. Caught between two worlds--one of dependency and the other of independence--and content or comfortable in neither, they become alienated from society or take steps to find out how the system works and how to make it work for them. The self-determination activities related briefly here are in the direction of accommodation to what is available to off-reservation Indians as American citizens entitled to the same services and rights as others.

An Urban Indian Project in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where nearly 10,000 Indians live, focuses on improving Indian access to health facilities and services. With financial assistance from IHS, the Indians established the Indian Health Board of Minneapolis, a nonprofit corporation made up of 21 Indian organizations, to determine what health resources were available and how to use them. They created a professional advisory committee composed of State and county health officers, the chief of staff of the County General Hospital, the IHS subarea health director, and the HEW Regional Health Director from Chicago. Both State and county health departments have cooperated in the project. By taking the initiative, Indians in this Minneapolis project have located responsive individuals and groups able to help solve some of the health problems of Indians living in this urban area.

Lost in the anonymity of city life, Indians often feel the need of some identifiable source of guidance and help. For the last several years, about 80 Indian centers have been established to lend a hand in finding housing and employment and locating available social services of Federal, State, and local programs. These centers represent the combined effort of several Federal agencies. Some of the centers have undergone an evaluation to test the Indian proposition that they be the mechanism for operating Indian programs in urban areas. One of the major problems of urban Indians is the breaking of ties with both their tribes and the BIA when they leave their Indian communities. They must therefore contend with a complex set of new relationships to gain the services and assistance available to all Americans.

Self-determination activities are indeed under way, as the foregoing examples indicate. However, implementation of the self-determination policy is difficult because of the extreme diversity of Indian tribes and the differences among them as to precisely what self-determination means. It seems clear that Indians want to retain the services owed them under the special trust relationship with the

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Federal Government and also to have access to programs and services provided to other U.S. citizens by the government. Beyond that, they want to plan, operate, and be responsible for programs for their own people. In some Indian programs, the extent of control through tribal contracts is still quite limited, while in others it is nearly total. As tribal councils gain experience in planning and managing their own affairs, and as adequate funds become available to support needed programs, Indian self-determination will be more nearly a reality.

CONCLUSION

There is evidence that Indian society is changing, and many of the signs are hopeful. Both excessive paternalism and termination of the trust relationships have become discredited as national policy regarding Indians. As the President's Message of 1970 stated, "Federal termination errs in one direction, Federal paternalism errs in the other." It is also widely accepted that the integrity of the Indian culture should be preserved, not only as a contribution to cultural pluralism which enriches society as a whole, but also as a reflection of the desires of the Indian people themselves.

A time of rapid change is difficult for any cultural group. When that group is disadvantaged economically and socially, and is in a minority position in the surrounding society, the adjustments required to achieve upward mobility are especially trying.

The Indian culture is in a transition period, but the roots of Indian customs and values are deep and will not yield quickly or easily to alien customs and values. The process of moving toward self-determination is underway, and some measure of change is in the Indian picture today.

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APPENDIX TABLES

Table A-1--Where most Indians lived in 1970 1/

State	Total	Urban	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm
		Number		
Oklahoma	96,803	47,623	44,019	5,161
Arizona	94,310	16,442	70,808	7,060
California	88,263	67,202	19,955	1,106
New Mexico	71,582	13,405	51,466	6,711
North Carolina	44,195	6,194	28,748	9,253
South Dakota	31,043	9,115	18,597	3,331
Washington	30,824	16,102	13,541	1,181
Montana	26,385	5,070	18,215	3,100
New York	25,560	17,161	8,165	234
Minnesota	22,322	11,703	9,789	830
Wisconsin	18,776	7,439	10,963	374
Texas	16,921	14,567	2,126	228
Alaska 2/	16,080	4,696	11,378	6
Michigan	16,012	10,541	5,183	288
North Dakota	13,565	1,810	10,642	1,113
Oregon	13,210	6,976	5,705	529
Utah	10,551	3,689	5,606	1,256
Illinois	10,304	9,542	687	75

1/ States with 10,000 or more Indian population.
2/ Excludes Aleuts and Eskimos.

Source: (9).

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Table A-2--Age distribution of rural Indians and total rural population, 1970

Age	Rural Indians		Total rural population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Years:				
Under 5	52,782	12.5	4,646,618	8.6
5 - 9	62,301	14.7	5,734,214	10.6
10 - 14	60,837	14.4	6,061,173	11.3
15 - 19	49,268	11.6	5,155,064	9.6
20 - 24	29,225	6.9	3,416,879	6.3
25 - 29	24,089	5.7	3,275,515	6.1
30 - 34	23,215	5.5	3,046,544	5.7
35 - 39	20,999	5.0	2,979,591	5.5
40 - 44	19,006	4.5	3,087,475	5.7
45 - 49	16,483	3.9	3,067,242	5.7
50 - 54	14,890	3.5	2,885,775	5.4
55 - 59	13,719	3.2	2,702,992	5.0
60 - 64	11,305	2.7	2,386,869	4.4
65 - 69	10,105	2.4	1,942,211	3.6
70 - 74	6,040	1.4	1,459,727	2.7
75 and over	8,963	2.1	2,030,968	3.8
Total	423,227	100.0	53,878,857	100.0
(Median age)	(18.6)		(27.9)	

Source: (9).

Table A-3--Size of family: Rural Indians and total rural population, 1970

Size of family	Rural Indians		Total rural population	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Total families	77,909	100.0	13,715,723	100.0
2 persons	15,529	19.9	4,732,291	34.5
3 persons	11,848	15.2	2,721,310	19.8
4 persons	11,714	15.0	2,545,436	18.6
5 persons	10,091	13.0	1,700,595	12.4
6 persons	8,611	11.1	986,496	7.2
7 persons or more	20,116	25.8	1,029,595	7.5

Source: (9).

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Table A-4--Type of income of families: Indians and total U.S. population, 1969

Type of income	Indians			United States		
	Total	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm	Total	Rural nonfarm	Rural farm
	Number					
All families	149,122	69,203	8,706	51,168,599	10,919,975	2,795,748
With wage or salary income	124,815	55,772	6,386	44,134,572	9,231,706	1,971,098
(Mean wage or salary income)	($6,761)	($5,601)	($4,983)	($10,169)	($8,786)	($7,109)
With nonfarm self-employment income	8,508	3,251	627	5,461,673	1,288,156	332,960
(Mean nonfarm self-employment income)	($5,051)	($4,413)	($3,098)	($8,182)	($6,634)	($5,244)
With farm self-employment income	6,210	2,298	3,138	2,371,415	437,354	1,585,126
(Mean farm self-employment income)	($2,011)	($1,489)	($2,382)	($3,516)	($2,583)	($3,924)
With Social Security income	24,915	12,489	1,952	10,070,743	2,285,086	659,771
(Mean Social Security income)	($1,290)	($1,209)	($1,090)	($1,626)	($1,539)	($1,388)
With public assistance or public welfare income	28,142	16,272	1,533	2,719,074	603,178	104,383
(Mean public assistance or public welfare income)	($1,352)	($1,300)	($1,109)	($1,298)	($1,062)	($958)
With other income	35,328	15,253	2,310	17,967,012	3,026,930	839,184
(Mean other income)	($1,498)	($1,370)	($1,591)	($2,287)	($2,007)	($1,902)

Source: (9). PC(2)1F and PC(1)C1.

0034

Table A-5--Years of schooling completed: Indians and total U.S. population, 1970 1/

Years of school completed	Indians			United States		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
			Number			
Total	322,652	153,838	168,814	109,899,359	81,034,450	28,864,909
No school years completed	24,906	4,078	20,828	1,767,753	1,267,897	499,856
Elementary:						
1-4 years	25,002	8,001	17,001	4,271,561	2,754,561	1,517,000
5-7 years	48,110	18,507	29,603	11,032,712	7,450,112	3,582,600
8 years	42,226	18,091	24,135	14,015,364	9,247,598	4,767,766
High school:						
1-3 years	75,084	38,172	36,912	21,285,922	15,582,552	5,703,370
4 years	71,051	41,349	29,702	34,158,051	25,617,221	8,540,830
College:						
1-3 years	24,078	16,564	7,514	11,650,730	9,318,338	2,332,392
4 years or more	12,195	9,076	3,119	11,717,266	9,796,171	1,921,095
			Years			
Median school years completed	9.8	11.2	8.7	12.1	12.2	11.1
			Percent			
Percent high school graduates	33.3	43.5	23.9	52.3	55.2	44.3

1/ Persons 25 years old and over.

Source: (9) PC(2)1F and PC(1)C1.

00135

Table A-6--Selected vital statistics: Indians and total U.S. population

Vital statistics	Indians and Alaska Natives	United States (all races)
Birth rates per 1,000 population		
1972	31.7	1/ 15.6
1955	37.1	24.6
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:		
1972	20.9	1/ 18.5
1955	62.5	26.4
Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births:		
1972	37.9	1/ 24.0
1958	82.6	37.6
Age-adjusted death rates by specified cause (per 100,000 population) 1972:		
Accidents	185.1	2/ 55.3
Diseases of the heart	165.4	2/ 262.3
Malignant neoplasms	81.3	2/ 129.7
Life expectancy at birth (years):		
1970	65.1	70.9

1/ Provisional: Monthly Vital Statistics Report, NCHS, Vol. 21, No. 13.

2/ 1969 rates used; latest available.

Source: Indian Health Service, Office of Program Statistics.

0036

Table A-7--Employment status of males and females: Indians and total U.S. population, 1970 1/

(Number)

Employment status	Indians			United States		
	Total 2/	Urban	Rural	Total 3/	Urban	Rural
				Males		
Total	219,672	103,446	116,226	67,235,510	49,355,476	17,880,034
Labor force	139,339	74,449	64,890	51,502,114	38,290,203	13,211,911
(Percent of total)	(63.4)	(72.0)	(55.8)	(76.6)	(77.6)	(73.9)
Civilian labor force	131,775	68,031	63,744	49,549,239	36,592,520	12,956,719
Employed	116,467	61,658	54,809	47,623,754	35,167,824	12,455,930
Unemployed	15,308	6,373	8,935	1,925,485	1,424,696	500,789
(Percent of civilian labor force)	(11.6)	(9.4)	(14.0)	(3.9)	(3.9)	(3.9)
Not in labor force	80,333	28,997	51,336	15,733,396	11,065,273	4,668,123
				Females		
Total	233,266	113,858	119,408	73,851,760	55,510,214	18,341,546
Labor force	82,394	47,718	34,676	30,546,667	23,949,957	6,596,710
(Percent of total)	(35.3)	(41.9)	(29.0)	(41.4)	(43.1)	(36.0)
Civilian labor force	82,122	47,499	34,623	30,501,807	23,910,047	6,591,760
Employed	73,766	42,803	30,963	28,929,845	22,706,027	6,223,818
Unemployed	8,356	4,696	3,660	1,571,962	1,204,020	367,942
(Percent of civilian labor force)	(10.2)	(9.9)	(10.6)	(5.2)	(5.0)	(5.6)
Not in labor force	150,872	66,140	84,732	43,305,093	31,560,257	11,744,836

1/ Persons 16 years old and over. 2/ Indian total includes 7,564 males and 272 females in the Armed Forces. 3/ U.S. total includes 1,952,875 males and 44,860 females in the Armed Forces.

Source: (9) PC(2)1F and PC(1)C1.

00327

Table A-8--Major occupation groups: Indians and total U.S. population, 1970 1/

Occupation group	Indians			United States		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
				Number		
White collar workers 2/	57,405	37,569	19,836	36,908,425	30,448,953	6,459,472
Blue collar workers 3/	85,252	45,221	40,031	27,488,541	19,448,662	8,039,879
Service workers 4/	36,567	20,146	16,421	9,777,088	7,641,685	2,135,403
Farm workers 5/	11,009	1,525	9,484	2,379,545	334,551	2,044,994
Total	190,233	104,461	85,772	76,553,599	57,873,851	18,679,748

1/ Persons 16 years old and over. 2/ Professional and technical, managers and administrators except farm, sales, and clerical. 3/ Craftsmen and foremen, operatives, and nonfarm laborers. 4/ Private household and service. 5/ Farmers and farm managers, farm laborers, and farm foremen.

Source: (9) PC(2)1F and PC(1)C1.

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Table A-9--Industry groups: Indians and total U.S. population: 1970 1/

Industry	Indians			United States		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
				Number		
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	13,612	2,470	11,142	2,840,488	591,863	2,248,625
Mining	2,832	1,040	1,792	630,788	324,425	306,363
Construction	15,425	7,548	7,877	4,572,235	3,107,516	1,464,719
Manufacturing	44,360	25,444	18,916	19,837,208	14,624,756	5,212,452
Transportation, communications, and public utilities	10,859	6,531	4,328	5,186,101	4,109,966	1,076,135
Wholesale and retail trade	26,495	18,047	8,448	15,372,880	12,231,869	3,141,011
Finance, insurance, and real estate	4,160	3,313	847	3,838,387	3,318,709	519,678
Business and repair services	5,470	4,100	1,370	2,394,887	1,990,687	404,200
Personal services	12,620	7,911	4,709	3,536,576	2,757,637	778,939
Entertainment and recreational services	1,461	972	489	631,193	532,736	98,457
Professional and related services	36,175	19,148	17,027	13,511,204	10,863,208	2,647,996
Public administration	16,764	7,937	8,827	4,201,652	3,420,479	781,173
Total employed	190,233	104,461	85,772	76,553,599	57,873,851	18,679,748

1/ Persons 16 years old and over.

Source: (9) PC(2)1F and PC(1)C1.

Table A-10--Selected housing characteristics: Indians and total U.S. rural population, 1970

Item	Indians			U.S. rural population
	Total	Urban	Rural	
	Number			
Total households	180,849	91,860	88,989	15,887,066
Owner-occupied	90,094	35,286	54,808	12,107,090
(Percent)	(49.8)	(38.4)	(61.6)	(76.2)
Lacking complete plumbing:				
All households	47,495	6,664	40,831	2,301,464
(Percent)	(26.3)	(7.3)	(45.9)	(14.5)
Owned	28,552	1,974	26,578	1,349,031
(Percent)	(31.7)	(5.6)	(48.5)	(11.1)
Rented	18,943	4,690	14,253	952,433
(Percent)	(20.9)	(8.3)	(41.7)	(25.2)
Crowded (more than 1 person per room):				
All households	56,306	17,061	39,245	1,610,895
(Percent)	(31.1)	(18.6)	(44.1)	(10.1)
Owned	29,162	5,262	23,900	995,740
(Percent)	(32.4)	(14.9)	(43.6)	(8.2)
Rented	27,144	11,799	15,345	615,155
(Percent)	(29.9)	(20.9)	(44.9)	(16.3)

Source: (10) HC(7)-9 and HC(1)A-1.

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